

Message Text

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SUBJECT: USGS PROGRAM IN YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

REF STATE 27039, SANA 2979, SANA RESPONSE OF APPROX 11/13/76

TO: V.E. MCKELVEY, DIRECTOR, USGS
VIA: R.P. SHELDON, CHIEF GEOLOGIST
W.C. PRINZ, ACG FOR MINERAL RESOURCES
J.A. REINEMUND, CHIEF, OIG
D.F. DAVIDSON, CHIEF, BRANCH OF MIDDLE EASTERN AND ASIAN GEOLOGY
F.S. SIMONS, CHIEF, USGS/SAM
FROM: H.R. BLANK, GEOLOGIST/GEOPHYSICIST
M.E. GETTINGS, GEOPHYSICIST:GEOLOGIST
R.G. WORL, GEOLOGIST
USGS/SAUDI ARABIAN MISSION

1. WE HAVE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM 5-DAY, UNOFFICIAL "BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY" IN YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC (YAR), DURING WHICH TRAVELED SURFACE SANA-TAIZ-HODAYDAH-SANA AND PARTICIPATED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH: USAID PROGRAM DIRECTOR RUIZ AND STAFF, INCLUDING USGS HYDROGEOLOGIST TIBBETTS; DCM AMERICAN EMBASSY RANSOME; DIRECTOR YEMEN PETROLEUM AND MINERALS AUTHORITY JABBAR AND STAFF; STAFF AND STUDENTS FACULTY OF SCIENCE SANA UNIVERSITY; REPRESENTATIVES GERMAN AND JAPANESE GEOLOGICAL MISSIONS; AND STAFF OF UN/FAO FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. AS CONCERNED AMERICAN CITIZENS AND PROFESSIONAL EARTH SCIENTISTS, WE WISH TO COMMUNICATE CERTAIN OBSERVATIONS RELEVANT TO URGENT QUESTIONS.

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 07715 271044Z

TION OF FUTURE USGS INVOLVEMENT IN EARTH SCIENCE AND MINERAL

RESOURCE EVALUATION IN THIS STRATEGIC CORNER OF ARABIAN PENINSULA.

2. ADAR (WASHINGTON-BASED ARABIAN-AMERICAN CONSULTING FIRM) PRESENTLY PROPOSAL FOR MINERAL AND HYDROLOGICAL RESOURCE SURVEY OF YAR FOR CONSIDERATION BY KUWAIT FUND. ADAR PROPOSAL DUE MID-DECEMBER; RELATED PROGRAM DECISIONS EXPECTED SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

3. GOVERNMENT OF YAR (CENTRAL PLANNING OFFICE AND PETROLEUM AND MINERALS AUTHORITY), KUWAIT FUND, AND US EMBASSY SANA KEENLY INTERESTED IN USGS PARTICIPATION, FOR SELF-EVIDENT SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL, AND POLITICAL REASONS. THEY REQUIRE IMMEDIATE SUBMITTAL USGS WORK PLAN AND FIRM USGS COMMITMENT TO UNDERTAKE PROGRAM CONTINGENT ONLY ON AVAILABILITY EXTERNAL FUNDS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT USGS INTEREST PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED IN GENERAL TERMS BUT CONCERNED PARTIES APPARENTLY HAVE NOT RECEIVED SUFFICIENTLY SPECIFIC USGS PROPOSAL NOR ARE THEY AWARE IF SUCH PROPOSAL IMMINENT.

4. IT WAS REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED TO US THAT SOME SORT OF NEW, RESOURCE-ORIENTED PROGRAM LIKELY TO BE FUNDED IN NEAR FUTURE AND USGS PROBABLY HAS INSIDE TRACK, BUT THAT TIME RUNNING OUT AND WITHOUT NEW USGS INITIATIVE YAR & KUWAIT FUND WILL HAVE NO RECOURSE OTHER THAN TO ADOPT PROPOSAL FROM AMONG UK, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, ROMANIA, OR POSSIBLY OTHER SUBMITTALS.

5. WE BELIEVE USGS PROPOSAL FOR YAR WOULD HAVE EXCELLENT PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION, FOR MANY REASONS, IN PARTICULAR:

A. USGS HAS SUBSTANTIAL BACKGROUND MIDDLE EAST GEOLOGY AND OPERATIONS AND IS WELL KNOWN AND RESPECTED IN YAR, EXPECIALLY BECAUSE OF SAUDI PROGRAM AND RECENT LANDSAT AND YDROGEOLOGY (AID) PROJECTS.

B. GEOLOGY OF YAR OFFERS GREAT VARIETY OF SCIENTIFIC CHALLENGES, SOME RELATED TO GEOLOGY SAUDI ARABIA, OTHERS ENTIRELY NEW. EXPOSURES GENERALLY EXCELLENT DUE TO HIGH TOPO RELIEF.

C. RESOURCE POTENTIAL RANGES FROM FAIR FOR PRECAMBRIAN BASE-AND PRECIOUS-METALS THROUGH GOOD FOR YOUNGER METAL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 JIDDA 07715 271044Z

DEPOSITS TO EXCELLENT FOR INDUSTRIAL MINERALS.

D. STRONG APPLIED SCIENCE PROGRAM AT SANA UNIVERSITY COULD PROVIDE LOCAL TECHNICAL HELP AND COUNTERPARTS FOR TRAINING. STAFF OF GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT CONSTITUTES ADDITIONAL RESERVOIR EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE. IN GENERAL PEOPLE OF YAR SEEM INDUSTRIOUS, APT, HIGHLY MOTIVATED, AND CAPABLE OF QUICKLY ASSUMING CONSIDERABLE RESPONSIBILITY IN SCIENTIFIC/

TECHNICAL PROGRAMS.

6. IN OUR OPINION, LOGICAL COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE IMMEDIATE ASSIGNMENT KEY USGS PERSONNEL TO FORMULATE AND FOLLOW THROUGH ON APPROPRIATE USGS PROGRAM PROPOSAL. WE WOULD RECOMMEND R.O. JACKSON OF USGS/SAM, WHO HAS KEPT ABREAST OF GEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES IN YAR FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS AND IS EMINENTLY QUALIFIED EXPERT ON GEOLOGY ARABIAN PENINSULA, AND CHASE TIBBETTS OF USGS/AID SANA WHO IS MANAGING SUCCESSFUL KYDRO-GEOLOGY PROGRAM IN YAR THRU AID AND HAS FULL KNOWLEDGE OF YAR SITUATION.

7. THIS CABLE CONSTITUTES OUR RESPONSE TO NUMEROUS REQUESTS RECEIVED WHILE IN YAR FOR INPUT REGARDING PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND FOR CLARIFICATION OF USGS INTENTIONS. IT HAS BEEN GENERATED SOLELY ON OUR OWN INITIATIVE AND RESPONSIBILITY.
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